

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 13, 2026

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Proposed Rule – Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance [OPM-2026-10817]

Dear Director Vought:

We write with serious concern and strong opposition to the Trump Administration’s proposed rule to gut the federal grantmaking process, which would politicize all federal grant funding and subject billions of taxpayer dollars to overtly partisan purity tests. Federal grants drive lifesaving discoveries, serve as a lifeline for families and communities, and help address Americans’ needs and challenges on critical issues including public health, public safety, child care, education, and infrastructure. The proposed rule would allow the Trump Administration to allocate taxpayer dollars based on President Trump’s personal interests—not the best interests of Americans—and would open unprecedented opportunities for waste, abuse, and corruption. Politicizing federal funding in this way, including by banning grant funds for anything the Trump Administration determines to be “anti-American,” is clearly and alarmingly destructive, dangerous, and against the public interest.¹

The proposed rule, issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on May 29, 2026, would give senior political appointees broad power and discretion over the approval and termination of grants. It would institute new requirements that all federal grants be approved by senior political appointees who would be required to ensure that the funds “advance the President’s policy priorities.”² By moving decisions about grant funding into the hands of political appointees charged with a mandate to only fund projects and recipients that align with its partisan ideology, the Trump Administration is escalating its radical and unlawful attempts to seize broad, unilateral power.

¹ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-755>).

² Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-183>).

The proposed rule would also expand the Administration's power to terminate grants without cause by finding that they are "no longer in the Federal Government's interest" and gives OMB and the White House direct visibility and oversight over specific institutions and organizations that receive grants.³ The proposed rule's requirements are highly prescriptive, ill-defined, overbroad, and designed to give the Trump Administration maximum power over virtually all aspects of American life. It goes so far as to ban grant funds from being used "to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate... initiatives that... promote anti-American values."⁴ The extraordinarily broad wording would leave the definition of what constitutes "American values" up to the discretion of President Trump and his Administration.

Giving insight into some of the countless ways the rule might be weaponized if finalized, the proposed rule also places highly political and specific strictures on grants, including banning grants from being used for work related to "diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility." The language further specifies that awards must not be used to "fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate ... denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans or the notion that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic."⁵

The new requirements would drastically alter not just the review of grants in response to funding announcements, but also all future new federal programs which would be required to "align with administration policies and priorities."⁶ The proposed rule also sets forth restrictions on grant applicants and recipients that are ripe for weaponization. Grant recipients would be scrutinized for their "institutional affiliations,"⁷ their compliance with "religious liberty"⁸ laws, and if they have a "history of questionable practices."⁹

The proposed rule would also impose new requirements on Offices of Inspectors General (OIG) to share certain disclosures with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia within ten days of receipt.¹⁰ This requirement does not provide for the assessment of the credibility of disclosures by OIGs themselves and would compromise confidentiality and the integrity of potential investigations. Treating every complaint as valid and requiring OIGs to

³ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-182>).

⁴ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-755>).

⁵ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-222>).

⁶ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-712>).

⁷ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-184>).

⁸ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-777>).

⁹ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-95>).

¹⁰ Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-168>).

refer all complaints to the Department of Justice would give a politicized Department of Justice even more latitude to weaponize unsubstantiated claims.

Politicized funding requirements would impact every organization and institution that receives any federal funds. The new requirements would hit scientific research and innovation especially hard, with scientific grants no longer reviewed by nonpartisan scientific experts, limits on what topics researchers can investigate, limits on who researchers can collaborate with, and broad discretion for the Trump Administration to terminate research projects midstream. Scientific research grants would instead be reviewed by political appointees forbidden from deferring to peer reviewers, granting them broad discretion to fund science based on political ideology rather than scientific rigor or merit.¹¹ The proposed rule's new requirement that all recipients and subrecipients participate in the Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify program would also create an undue administrative burden on businesses of all sizes as it would require recipients and subrecipients to report any adverse decision from the program to the awarding agency—effectively turning recipients of federal grants into another arm of the Trump Administration's draconian immigration crackdown.¹²

Since its earliest days, the second Trump Administration has illegally frozen, recklessly canceled, and spitefully weaponized federal grant funding with no regard for the consequences, which are most often borne by American families. It has unlawfully withheld funds appropriated by Congress to help hungry children, fight disease, and build a stronger economy.¹³ Instead of correcting its radical overreach and abuse of taxpayer dollars, OMB's proposed rule is a significant escalation of such overreach and abuse, seeking to provide the President with ultimate power to wield taxpayer dollars according to his own whims. As such, we demand that you immediately rescind the proposed rule and instead prioritize reforms that protect and advance the integrity of the federal grantmaking process.

¹¹ *White House Proposes Vast Overhaul of US Science Funding: What You Need to Know*, Nature (June 3, 2026) (online at www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-01779-z); *Summary of Key Changes in OMB's Proposed Federal Financial Assistance Rule*, Elizabeth Ginexi (May 28, 2026) (online at <https://elizabethginexi.substack.com/p/summary-of-key-changes-in-ombs-proposed>).

¹² Office of Management and Budget, *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance*, 91 Fed. Reg. 32198 (May 29, 2026) (proposed rule) (online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-10817/p-885>).

¹³ See, e.g., *"A Huge Grab of Power": Trump is Defying Congress on Foreign Aid*, ProPublica (June 22, 2026) (online at <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-defying-congress-foreign-aid-usaid-vought-rubio-constitutional-crisis>); *The Trump Administration is Holding Up Billions in HHS Funding*, Spotlight PA (June 22, 2026) (online at www.spotlightpa.org/news/2026/06/trump-hhs-grants-delayed-political-review-billions-federal-government/).

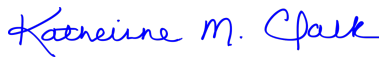
Sincerely,



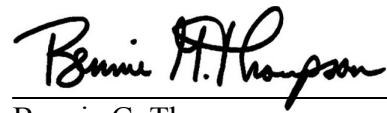
Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



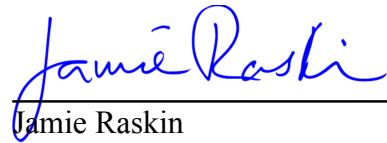
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security



Joseph D. Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House
Administration



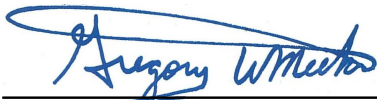
Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the
Judiciary



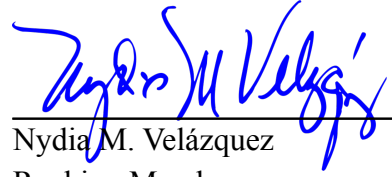
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Education and Workforce



Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign
Affairs



Nydia M. Velázquez
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



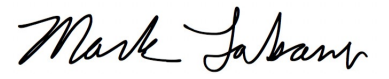
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



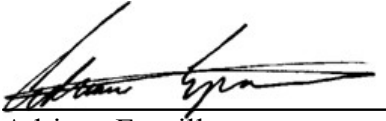
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



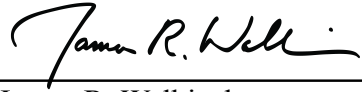
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



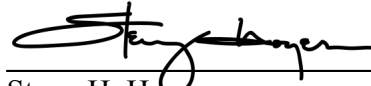
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



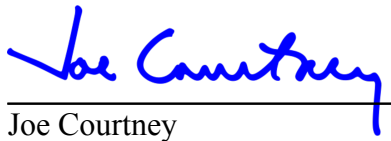
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



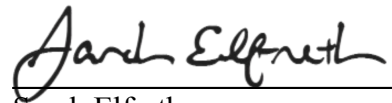
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



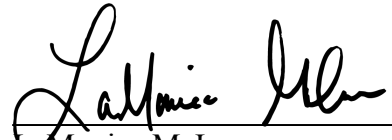
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



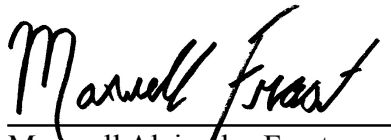
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



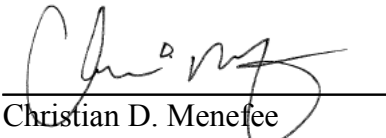
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



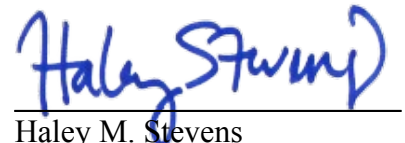
Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



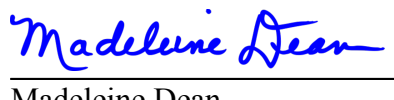
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



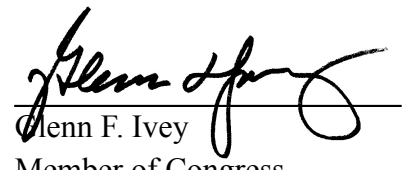
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



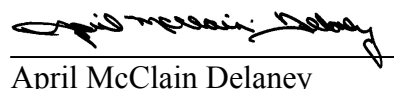
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



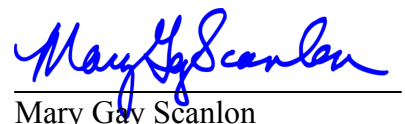
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



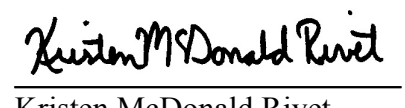
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



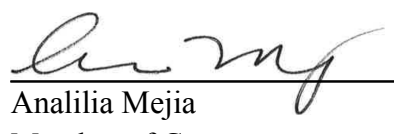
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



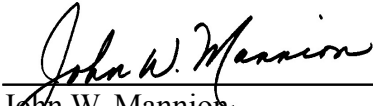
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



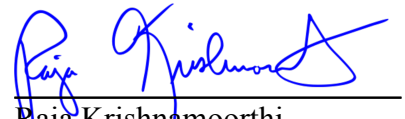
Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



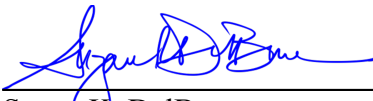
Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



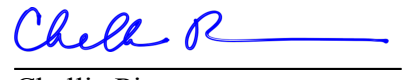
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



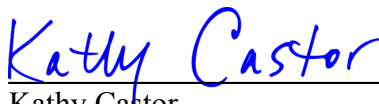
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



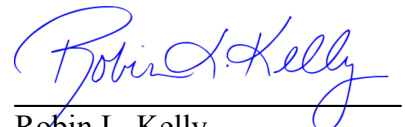
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



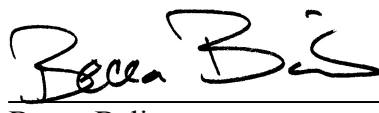
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



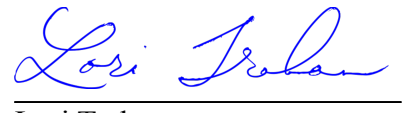
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



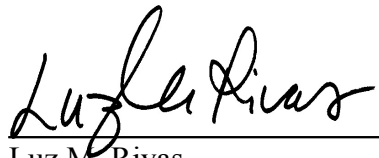
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



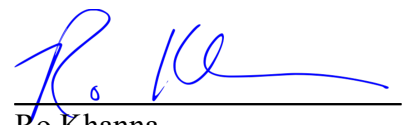
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



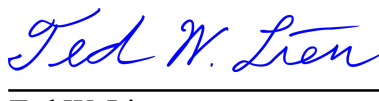
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



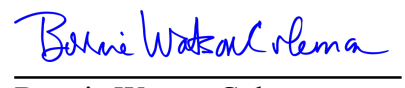
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



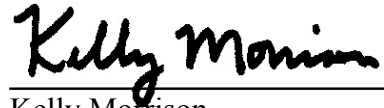
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



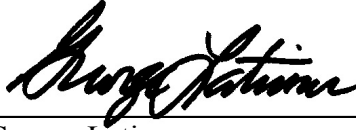
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



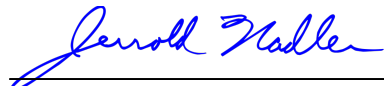
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



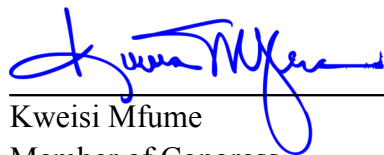
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



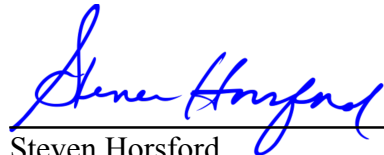
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



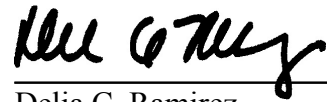
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



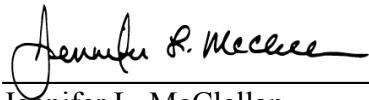
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth
Congressional District



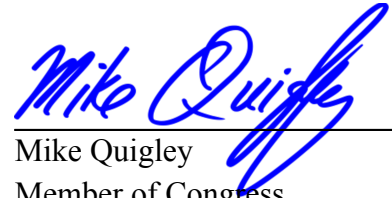
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



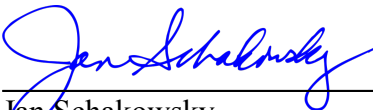
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



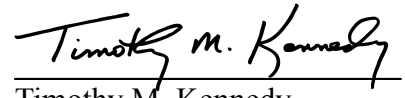
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



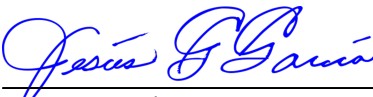
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



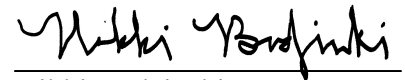
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



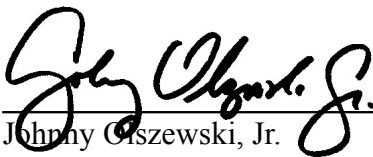
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



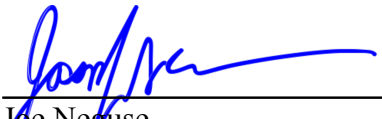
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



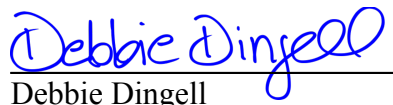
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



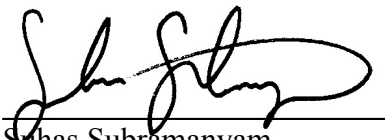
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



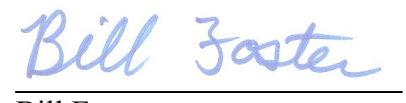
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



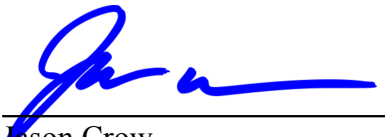
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



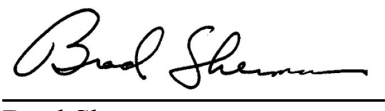
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



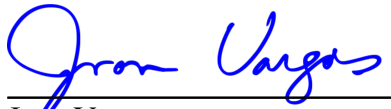
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



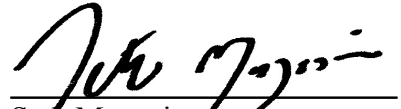
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



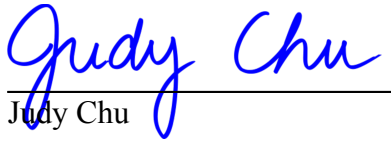
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



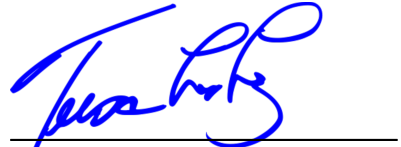
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



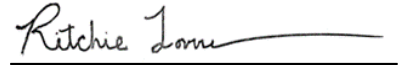
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



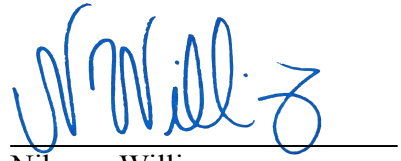
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



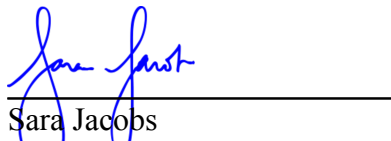
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



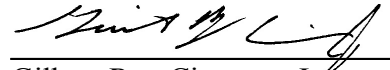
Adelfa S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



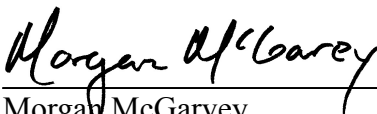
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



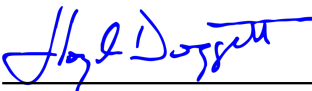
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



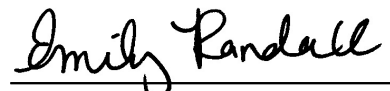
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



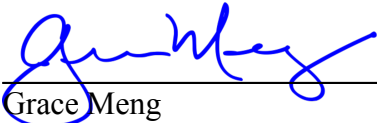
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



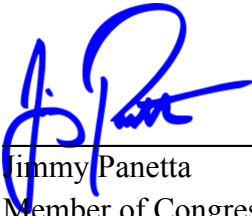
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



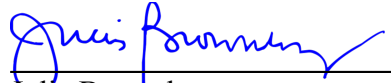
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



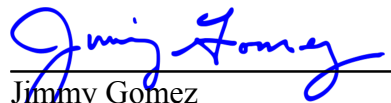
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



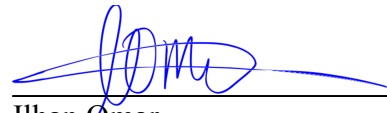
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



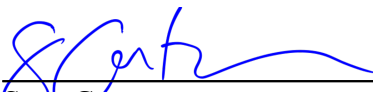
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress